

6 things you should know about the Holocaust

1. What was the Holocaust?

The first in a series of 6, 20-minute self-study short lessons for KS3

Short lesson 1 overview



Hello! I'm Dr Tom Haward. This is the first of six short, 20-minute lessons that I've put together for you to help address some of the common misunderstandings many students have about the Holocaust.

In this 20 minute lesson you are going to;

- 1 a) Reflect on who were the victims of the Holocaust (5 mins.)
- 2 a) Explore two case studies that look at how non-Jewish victims were also persecuted, and the reasons behind their persecution (10 mins.)
- 3 a) Reflect on the implications of this in a quiz (5 mins.)



Key terms for this lesson

Key term	Meaning
Aryan	A term used mistakenly by the Nazis to describe a 'race' of blonde north European 'Aryans'
deported	To force someone to leave a place.
Holocaust	The systematic state-sponsored killing of six million Jewish men, women, and children and millions of others by Nazi Germany and its collaborators during the Second World War.
Jehovah's Witness	A Christian-based religious movement who believe that Jesus is not equal with God.
Jewish	A group of people, historically originating from Israel and Judea, whose ethnicity, nationhood and religion are often closely related together.
morale	How confident and enthusiastic people are.
People's Court	Set up in 1933 by order of Adolf Hitler to try people accused of treason. It tried people in secret, there was no jury, and it had the power to order the death penalty.

1 a) Who was a victim of the Holocaust, and who was a victim of something else?

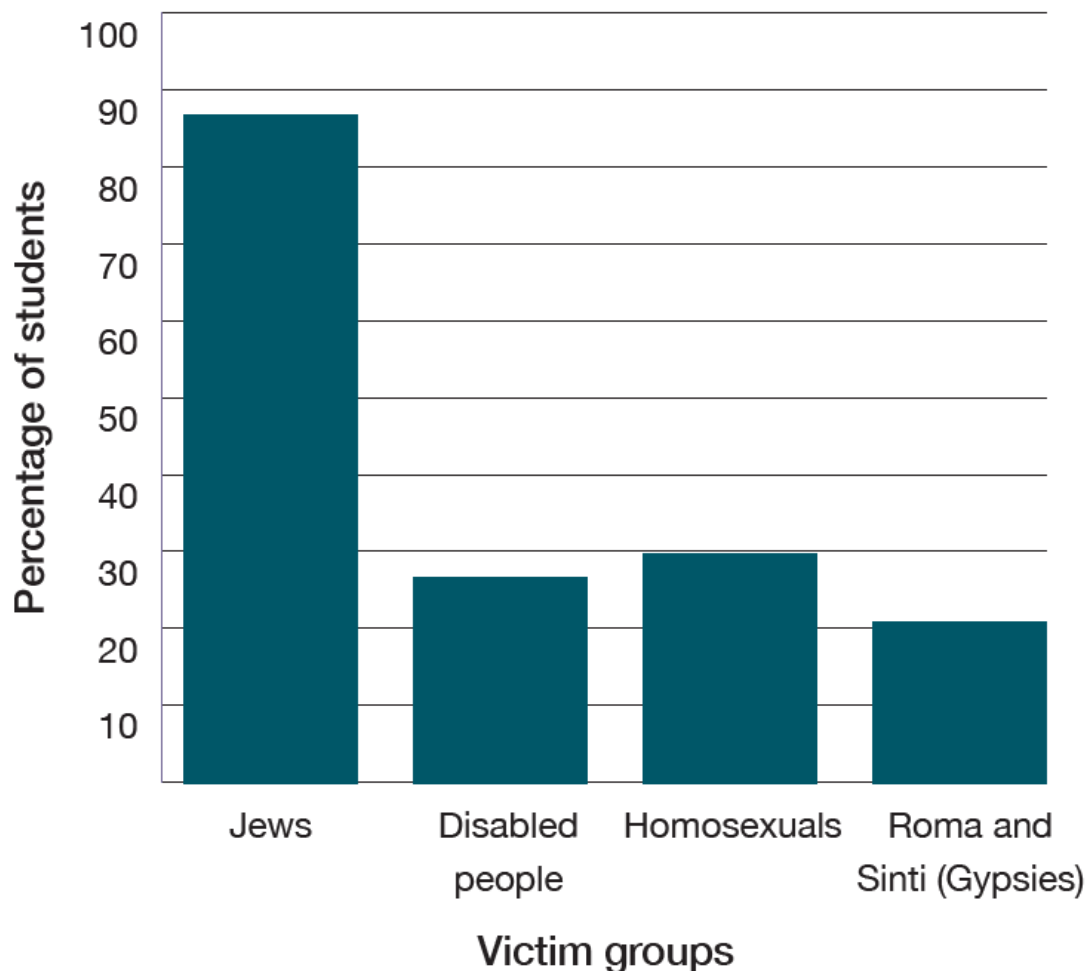


 Pitel family, Parczew	 Theresa Benedicta	 Edith Stein	 Roger Bushell	 Joseph Tarantov
 Wolstenholme family, Sheffield	 Father Piotr, Sosnowski	 Xavier Franz Stützing	 Manfred Lewin	
 Bedzin, Poland, Sept 1939	 Selma Zwienicki	 Settela Steinbach	 Helene Gotthold	
 Ernst Röhm	 Ossi Stojka	 Lidice, Czechoslovakia, June 1942	 Helena Lebel	 Robert Ölbermann

Here are lots of different people who were all victims – some of the Holocaust, and some not; Jews, the disabled, Roma and Sinti gypsies, homosexuals, communists, Jehovah's witnesses, criminals and Soviet prisoners of war are all shown here.

So *who* was a victim of the Holocaust?

1 a) Who were the victims of the Holocaust?



In 2016 UCL conducted a big survey of secondary school students in England. When asked **'The Nazis planned to kill every last person from this group, wherever they could reach them'**, students' replies are shown in this graph.

- What do you think? Who would you include as a victim, and why?

1 b) So who were the victims of the Holocaust, and who were the victims of something else?



The next two slides show two case studies;

- The first is about Helene Gotthold, a Jehovah's Witness.
- The second is about Manfred Lewin, a Jew who was also homosexual.

Read them both, and then be ready to think about and answer the questions on the slide after them.

Helene Gotthold



Credit: USHMM

The woman in this family photo, smiling with her children on a summer's day in 1936, is a German nurse called Helene Gotthold.

One year later after this picture was taken, Helene – then pregnant – was arrested by the Nazis because she was a Jehovah's Witness. She was beaten so savagely that she had a miscarriage and was then put in prison for 18 months.

In February 1944, Helene was arrested again and imprisoned for a second time. Six months later, the Nazis' People's Court found Helene and five other Jehovah's Witnesses guilty for holding illegal Bible meetings and 'undermining the nation's morale'. For these 'crimes' they were all sentenced to death.

Helene was beheaded on a guillotine on 8 December 1944.



Manfred Lewin



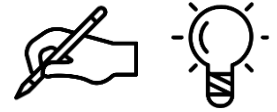
Credit: USHMM

This is a signed portrait of Manfred Lewin. During the Nazi period, Manfred lived in very poor conditions with his parents and four brothers and sisters in a cramped apartment in Berlin.

Manfred took part in many Jewish youth groups, and through these activities he met a young man called Gad Beck. Manfred and Gad fell deeply in love and became lovers but were separated when Manfred and his family were arrested.

In November 1942, Manfred was deported with other members of his family to Auschwitz, where he was killed. He was 20 years old.

1 b) Why were they persecuted?



Now you have read the two case studies, think about the following;

- 1) Why was Helene Gotthold persecuted? What were the 'crimes' the Nazis were accusing her of?
- 2) Why was Manfred Lewin persecuted? What were the 'crimes' the Nazis were accusing him of?

1 b) Why were they persecuted?



The Nazis persecuted homosexuals because they did not help to increase the Aryan population, and they were seen as corrupting German values and culture. Manfred Lewin and his family were deported to Auschwitz, but it wasn't because he was gay; it was because he was Jewish. Jews were seen by the Nazis as a direct threat to the German state, and so should be murdered wherever they were found.

This was not the case with other groups, although many such as Roma and Sinti Gypsies, homosexuals, and the disabled were also persecuted and murdered. Helene Gotthold, for instance, was killed because she held illegal Bible meetings. Jehovah's witnesses like Helene were also pacifists (they didn't believe in war and fighting), refused to display the Nazi flag, perform the 'Heil Hitler' salute or allow their children to join the Hitler Youth. The Nazis feared these acts might undermine German morale.

1 b) Why were they persecuted?



So, the Holocaust was **the systematic state-sponsored killing of six million Jewish men, women, and children and millions of others by Nazi Germany and its collaborators during the Second World War.**

Other groups of people, such as Jehovah's Witnesses and homosexuals were also persecuted horrifically, but the reasons for their persecution were different: there wasn't a plan to murder every last one of them, unlike with the Jews.

1 c) End of lesson quiz



You will be given **3 multiple-choice questions** to see how your knowledge and understanding of responsibility for the Holocaust has started to develop.

Use a pen and paper to record you answers.

At the end of the quiz are the answers. You can use this to see how you've done after you've recorded your best answers...

1 c) End of lesson quiz

Question 1

Which is not a reason why the Nazis saw Jehovah's witnesses as a threat;

- A** They fought back against Nazi rule in armed ambushes
- B** They would not display the swastika flag
- C** They refused to allow their children to join the Hitler Youth
- D** They refused to raise their arms in the 'Heil Hitler' salute

1 c) End of lesson quiz

Question 2

Which statement is not true of Nazi policy towards homosexuals?

- A** Being homosexual was seen as unhelpful in helping breed the Aryan 'race'.
- B** There was state-sponsored persecution and murder of a number of homosexuals in Nazi Germany.
- C** The Nazis planned to murder every last homosexual they could find.
- D** The Nazis saw homosexuality as being asocial (not normal) and criminal.

1 c) End of lesson quiz

Question 3

Which of the following statements is true?

- A** The Holocaust was the attempt to murder every single Jewish person. While others groups were also deliberately murdered, the intent and reasons differed.
- B** Homosexuals and Jews were persecuted for the same reasons.
- C** Homosexuals and Jehovah's Witnesses were persecuted by the Nazis for the same reason
- D** As genocide unfolded, all groups were persecuted for the same reason

1 c) End of lesson quiz

Answers

1. A

2. C

3. A

End of short lesson 1

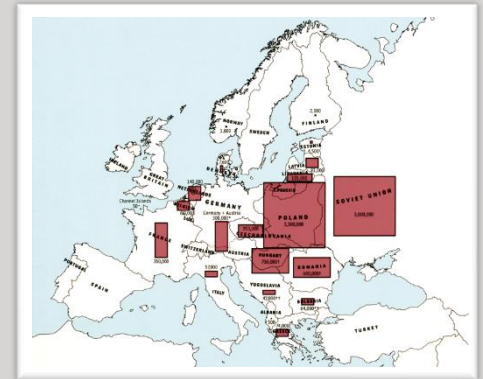
Well done!

You have now completed the second of six short lessons about important things you should know about the Holocaust. Now you are starting to understand that **The Holocaust was the attempt to murder every single Jewish person. While others groups were also deliberately murdered, the intent and reasons differed.**

We look forward to seeing you soon for short lesson 3, where you will think about where the largest numbers of Jews murdered came from.

6 things you should know about the Holocaust

1. The Holocaust was the attempt to murder every single Jewish person. While others groups were also deliberately murdered, the intent and reasons differed.



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